

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 DOTE-00 /024 W

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R 200804Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

SECSTATE WASHDC 7090

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 13551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR ET

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ETHIOPIAN OVERFLIGHT/LANDING

CLEARANCES FOR CESSNA 206

REF: A. ATHENS 8870(NOTAL)

B. ATHENS 8879 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA RECEIVED TWO REFTELS FROM ATHENS REQUESTING ETHIOPIAN OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING CLEARANCES FOR TWO CESSNA 206 AIRCRAFT BEING FERRIED FROM ATHENS TO NAIROBI BY WORLD AIR LIMITED OF WICHITA KANSAS. REFTELS REPORTED AIRCRAFT PILOTS THOUGHT WORLD AIR LTD MIGHT HAVE REQUESTED CLEARANCES DIRECTLY VIA TELEX FROM ETHIOPIAN CAA. CABLES STATED PLANES WOULD ENTER ETHIOPIAN AIRSPACE WHEN CLEARANCE WAS GRANTED. EMBASSY OFFICER RECEIVED CABLES MONDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 17 AND WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT ETHIOPIAN CAA OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE IF DIRECT REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND IF NOT, TO MAKE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF WORLD AIR.

2. BEFORE EMBOFF COULD REACH CAA, HE RECEIVED REQUEST TO CALL DIRECTOR OF SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION AT BOLE AIRPORT. SECURITY DIRECTOR REPORTED THAT FIRST OF TWO PLANES HAD ARRIVED THAT MORNING WITHOUT ANY OVERFLIGHT/LANDING CLEARANCE HAVING BEEN GRANTED. HE REPORTED THAT SECOND
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PLANE HAD ALSO TAKEN OFF FOR ADDIS BUT HAD TURNED BACK DUE

TO MACHANICAL PROBLEMS. PILOT OF FIRST AIRCRAFT WAS HELD ON GROUND FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND HAD TO SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENT REGARDING INCIDENT. HE WAS THEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ON TO NAIROBI. WHEN EMBOFF CONTACTED CAA, IT CONFIRMED THAT NO REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM WORLD AIR LTD.

3. ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THIS INCIDENT BUT THEY ARE UPSET. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS IN ETHIOPIA BY PRIVATE US AIRCRAFT WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION COULD CAUSE STRAINED RELATIONS WITH CAA, SECURITY AND PROTOCOL OFFICIALS IN EPMG. IN ADDITION PILOTS ARRIVING IN THE FUTURE WITHOUT CLEARANCES MAY WELL BE SUBJECT TO MORE SERIOUS EPMG MEASURES.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ALL US CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FIRMS WHICH MIGHT ROUTE AIRCRAFT THROUGH ETHIOPIAN AIRSPACE BE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INFORMATION MANUAL WHICH SPECIFY THAT REQUESTS FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY ETHIOPIAN CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AT LEAST 5 WORK DAYS IN ADVANCE IF REQUESTED VIA TELEX OR 7 WORK DAYS IF REQUESTED BY MAIL. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY INFORM WORLD AIR LTD OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS INCIDENT.
HUMMEL

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